

Subscribe

View Past Mailings

RSS



in Share

submit



CONGRESSMAN
RANDY HULTGREN
Proudly Representing the 14th District of Illinois

Home | About Randy | Serving You | News | Our District | Contact

June 7, 2014

Dear Friends,

On June 6, 1944, "the Allies stood and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history," as President Ronald Reagan described it 40 years later. Their efforts helped turn the tide and contribute to the eventual end of World War II.

To commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Allied D-Day Invasion, I was humbled to honor the Greatest Generation and the freedom and opportunity they provided for future generations by joining U.S. President Barack Obama, French President Francois Hollande, British Prime Minister David Cameron and other members of the official Congressional Delegation on the beaches of Normandy, France.

553 Illinois soldiers are buried in the American Normandy Cemetery where we paid our respects. I traveled there with three Illinois veterans who served in WWII: Marvin Sussman, Clifford Goodall and Albert Mampre. Read Signalman 2nd Class Goodall's eyewitness account of the Omaha Beach landing [here](#).



(Gravesite of Illinois' Irvin Hinman, Technician Fourth Class, 1287th Engineer Combat Battalion, U.S. Army)



(Rep. Hultgren with wife, Christy, and Leif Maseng, paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne, originally from Mt. Prospect, Illinois)

Following the morning memorial ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery in Omaha Beach on Friday, we traveled east to the International Ceremony at Sword Beach to honor

Watch: Honoring the Eldredge Brothers, McHenry County's Fallen Conservation Officers



(Click picture to watch video)

E-mail Updates

Yes, please periodically send me e-mail updates.*

[Click Here](#)

*By subscribing to my e-mail updates, you are authorizing me to send regular e-mail updates from my office to your e-mail account.



living veterans and children of those who lost their lives in the Normandy seaborne and airborne invasions. We also attended briefings at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, met with French officials and honored living and fallen WWI and WWII American troops at the Suresnes American Cemetery.

In the face of extreme danger, these men and women exemplified bravery and valor. As President Reagan said on the 40th Anniversary of this fateful battle: "Strengthened by their courage, heartened by their valor, and borne by their memory, let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and died."

Honoring our Commitment to Veterans...

As we remember D-Day, we must honorably keep our promise to care for those who fought for our freedoms. Our veterans deserve the same bolstered support at home that we provide our military on the battlefield and it is shameful to deny our veterans treatment and force them to endure extensive waiting periods for care.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Eric Shinseki has resigned amid gross allegations of VA mistreatment of veterans, and I thank him for his many years of service to our nation. But it will take more than a resignation and duct tape to fix this mess. We must deal with the debacle resulting from the bureaucratic nightmare at the VA, and focus on giving relief to veterans who have suffered egregiously long wait times and lack of care. The VA system is under duress, failing under its own weight as another result of bureaucracy run amok.

Illinois veterans whose healthcare needs may have been neglected or ignored [deserve immediate relief](#), and I encourage all veterans in the 14th District to contact my Geneva district office for assistance.

...and Ensuring Proper Care at Illinois VA Centers

Fortunately, I was greatly encouraged by my visit to the Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, a combined Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) facility serving veterans and active duty military. I requested a meeting with Director and Commanding Officer Captain Jose Acosta and Acting Deputy Director Michelle Blakely to share my concerns regarding the care Illinois veterans are receiving in light of recent events.

Captain Acosta and Michelle Blakely assured me that Lovell does not operate with a waiting list and they have taken proactive steps to ensure all veterans and active duty military are receiving quality care.



(Rep. Hultgren with Michelle Blakely, Acting Deputy Director, and Capt. Jose Acosta, Acting Director and Commanding Officer)

Seeing this country's first federal health center that partners the VA and the DOD into a single, integrated health care facility was an eye opener. The center oversees a full patient workload. But the constant need to navigate bureaucratic red tape can impede them from providing care in a timely fashion.

Capt. James Lovell, for whom the Center is named, successfully piloted Apollo 13 home after diverting near tragedy. If Capt. Lovell could get to the moon and back, then we as a nation can fulfill the promise of taking care of our veterans.

Showcasing Strong Economic Ties with Sweden's Ambassador

Ever since my great-grandfather arrived from Sweden and worked his way up in Chicago, my grandfather and father have instilled in me the importance of my Swedish heritage. I am proud to represent the many Swedish descendants that live and work in the 14th District. The symbiotic relationship between our two countries cannot be overestimated: Sweden is one of the largest investors in the United States per capita, and our relationship accounts for more than 330,000 American jobs—more than 15,000 of which are here in Illinois.

That's why, as founder and chair of the Congressional Friends of Sweden Caucus, I was thrilled to host Swedish Ambassador Björn Lyrvall in Geneva last week. Ambassador Lyrvall and I have worked closely together to promote and preserve the economic and cultural ties between the United States and the Kingdom of Sweden.



(Rep. Hultgren and Ambassador Lyrvall exchange gifts)

New June Dates for Congressional Assistance

In May, my staff was able to assist many of you in Marengo, Harvard, Plainfield, Sugar Grove, Woodstock and Antioch with their concerns, questions and requests for assistance with federal agencies. Staff members from my Geneva office will continue to travel throughout the 14th District during June to meet with constituents. All of these meetings are in addition to the many meetings I hold with constituents during each district work period.

I urge those in Wauconda, Gurnee, Oswego and Sycamore to bring your concerns and issues with the federal government. If you are a veteran who has felt neglected or ignored by the Department of Veterans Affairs, I especially want to hear from you and assist you as you seek out proper care. Let my staff know your situation and how I can help.

Please see below my signature for a full list of locations, dates and times.

Appropriations Season in Full Swing

After Congress agrees to spending levels for various federal functions via budget and authorization bills, appropriations bills are the tools which direct that money to the proper agencies. So far, the House has passed three of the 12 standard appropriations bills.

H.R. 4486, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, ensures we provide for our veterans and active duty military service members. Among other things, it includes \$158 billion for our veterans' benefits and medical care, and \$6.6 billion in discretionary spending for military construction and family housing. **H.R. 4487, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act**, cuts wasteful and duplicitous spending within the House of Representatives and includes funding for U.S. Capitol's operations, so that the building may be open and functioning for tourists when they visit Washington, D.C. My office staff is happy to provide tours and assistance as you visit our nation's capital. Click [here](#) for more information.

In addition, for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 the House has passed:

- **H.R. 4660, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015**, by a vote of 321-87. H.R. 4660 funds the Department of Commerce, Department of Justice (DOJ), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other related agencies. This legislation provides \$51.2 billion in total discretionary funding--\$398 million below the FY 2014

enacted level. The bill also eliminates 33 programs, resulting in savings of more than \$250 million, and rescinds \$469 million in unused prior-year funding.

- o Included in this bill was an amendment (H.AMDT. 697) which increased funding to combat the heroin epidemic plaguing northern Illinois. It gives \$4 million to the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, which supports multi-jurisdictional investigations to target drug trafficking organizations. As heroin and prescription drug abuse rises in the Chicago area, local law enforcement requires strong support federal law enforcement agencies to stop drug trafficking in our communities. I joined the majority of the House in supporting this amendment's passage.

· Additionally, the House passed **H.R. 4681, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015**, by a vote of 345-59. H.R. 4681 authorizes appropriations for all U.S. intelligence activities, including CIA personnel and activities, support to combat units in Afghanistan, monitoring of foreign militaries, analysis of international political and economic events, and research and technology. In light of the recent unauthorized disclosures of classified information, H.R. 4681 provides for continuous evaluation of individuals authorized to access classified information. The bill also requires a declassification review of documents collected during the mission that killed Osama bin Laden.

If you haven't already, be sure to like my [Facebook page](#), follow me on Twitter ([@RepHultgren](#)), or check out my [YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

As always, thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you.

In Your Service,



*Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress
14th District, Illinois*

[Randy in the News](#)

Aurora Beacon-News: [Wrigley to expand production at Yorkville plant](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Employee calls Hines audit flawed, says staff feared fallout](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Illinois delegation reaction to Shinseki resignation](#)

Chicago Sun-Times: [Lipinski, Hultgren taking off for Normandy today to mark D-Day](#)

Chicago Tribune: [FAA's shift in hiring raises concerns](#)

Chicago Tribune: [House members demand FAA shed light on air-traffic controller hiring](#)

DeKalb Daily Chronicle: [Rep. Randy Hultgren seeks answers on behalf of grieving soldier's family](#)

Kane County Chronicle: [Swedish ambassador visits Geneva](#)

Lake County News-Sun: [Congressman's mobile office stops in Lake County to address concerns](#)

Naperville Sun: [Hultgren backs bill targeting sex trafficking](#)

Northwest Herald: [Congressman Hultgren asks for veterans to report mistreatment amid VA scandal](#)

Northwest Herald: [Hultgren honors McHenry County conservation officers](#)

Washington Examiner: [Bill angles to address sex trafficking's relationship to prostitution](#)

Washington Examiner: [Congressional delegation to commemorate D-Day anniversary](#)

Washington Post: [House members urge D.C. to name street for imprisoned Chinese dissident](#)

[Bringing My Office to You](#)

Monday, June 9, 2014
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Wauconda Village Hall
101 N. Main St, Wauconda, IL

Tuesday, June 10, 2014
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Oswego Village Hall
100 Parkers Mill, Oswego, IL

Friday, June 13, 2013
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Sycamore Center (City Hall)
308 West State St, Sycamore, IL

Tuesday, June 17, 2014
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Gurnee Village Hall
325 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee, IL

Tell a Friend

E-mail:

E-mail:

E-mail:

Send

 [Share on Facebook](#)

Contact Information

Washington, DC
332 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2976
Fax: (202) 225-0697

Geneva Office
1797 State Street Suite A
Geneva, IL 60134
Phone: (630) 232-7104
Fax: (630) 232-7174

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update My Profile](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)